



**Linking Actors for Regional  
Opportunities (LARO) – Madagascar**

**Quarterly Programmatic Report  
April – June 2005**

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Submitted by Pact

# Executive Summary

## Regional Development Plan (RDP)

After the approval of the RDP by regional stakeholders and its promotion at the national level during the last quarter, the LARO team focused this quarter on providing support to the Regional Executive Administration (Chief of Region and his staff) in the preparation of the Annual Work Plan, which will translate the vision and strategic objectives of the RDP into concrete activities.

## Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and Regional Investment Plan (RIP)

Although the Regional Development Committee initially planned to complete the RIS by the end of May 2005, it was only finalized at the end of June 2005. The Regional Investment Plan (RIP) was directly extracted from the RIS. A workshop for the promotion and advocacy of the RIP at the level of the central government is scheduled for July in Antananarivo. During this workshop, the RIP will be presented to the Prime Minister, various high-level decision makers in each ministry, the president of the Representative Chamber, and the President of the Senate.

## Communal Development Plan Guidelines

The Communal Development Plan Guidelines were finalized and approved during the quarter, and will now serve to guide the updating of all Communal Development Plans. This update aims to improve the content in order to better reflect the priorities outlined in the Regional Development Framework and the Regional Development Plan.

## Environmental Activities

The following environmental activities were conducted during the quarter:

- 100 hectares were planted during the reforestation campaign starting in late May. 120,000 seedlings from the tree nursery were planted throughout five communes. The reforestation was officially launched with the presence of the Regional Authority and the USAID/NRO team.
- Several coordination meetings were held during the quarter to solve some problems related to the demarcation of the conservation site.
- The aquaculture training center for the local fishermen in Ambinanikely was officially inaugurated. The aquaculture site in Ambinanibe—the result of collaboration between USAID and QMM in the Global Development Alliance—will serve as a field application site for students at the training center.

## Other activities

Mobilization of CSOs and individual citizens continued during the quarter for both regional planning activities and environmental activities.

## II. Background

The LARO project addresses Madagascar's severe environmental crisis and agrarian poverty through a public-private alliance between USAID/Madagascar and the multinational mining conglomerate Rio Tinto/QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM).

The vast majority of Madagascar's population depends on subsistence agriculture for its livelihood, which is the most severe cause of environmental degradation. Deforestation, bush fires, and extensive cropping of marginal lands are removing the ground cover necessary to keep in place highly erosion-prone soils. This degradation threatens not only biological diversity, but also watershed and soil stability vital to an agrarian economy. Rural communities need more options to utilize and manage available natural resources in a sustainable manner.

LARO focuses on the Anosy region, where efforts to create an integrated regional planning framework have been slowed by a lack of capacity among regional actors. The region has expressed a need to integrate environmental considerations across all sectors and to create a framework that brings together development priorities set at the local level to achieve greater coherency and synergy among the different sectors.

The program focuses on three critical and interrelated results:

- Civil society and regional actors develop a regional development framework based on social, economic and environmental considerations.
- Stakeholders select environmentally friendly and economically sound activities in line with the new regional development framework and provide assistance to the city of Fort-Dauphin in crafting its urban plan.
- Conservation and development activities contribute to the protection of Malagasy biodiversity.

Pact focuses on bringing into equilibrium relationships distorted by poverty and achieving more sustainable development for the Anosy region in Madagascar. Working through local groups and individuals, Pact fosters widespread and effective public participation at all levels of government decision-making through the following activities:

- Establishing an institutional regional planning framework through which technical capacity will be delivered to assist in developing the stakeholder-owned and respected Anosy Regional Development Framework.
- Selecting municipal development plans that reflect local development priorities, which are consistent with the integrated Regional Development Framework.
- Providing technical and organizational support to community-based reforestation initiatives.
- Initiating and supporting priority biodiversity conservation zones and community-based income-generating interventions.
- Promoting community-based sustainable management of aquatic natural resources.

### III. Key Results This Period

#### **Result 1. Civil society and regional actors integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions into a regional development framework.**

- *An institutional regional planning framework is in place.*
- *Technical capacities in the Anosy Region for Regional Planning are improved.*
- *The Anosy Region has a Regional Development Framework (RDF) owned by regional stakeholders.*
- *The Anosy Regional Development Framework is supported by the Government of Madagascar and key donor agencies.*

#### Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and Regional Investment Plan (RIP)

After a series of trainings provided to the pool of local technicians on the Regional Investment Strategy process during the last quarter, the RIS was finally completed in June. The Regional Investment Plan (RIP) was directly extracted from the RIS. The RIP translates the strategic objectives and activities defined in the Regional Development Plan into specific activities and their accompanying costs.

The Regional Investment Plan is intended to provide a strategy through which the Regional Authority can make investments in the region's economic and community development priorities, increasing the likelihood that investments yield results.

Towards that end, the RIP includes criteria for making investments and the basis upon which program impact and regional performance will be measured and judged. The RIP is intended to be a dynamic document, evolving as conditions change and assumptions are tested.

As the RIP is implemented, the Anosy Region will continue to review and refine the plan in consultation with citizens, cities and counties, public agencies, civic and business organizations, and other interested parties.

Although the RIP has yet to receive the approval of the General Assembly of the Regional Development Committee, a workshop for the promotion and advocacy of the RIP at the central government level is already scheduled for July in Antananarivo. During this workshop, the RIP will be presented to the Prime Minister, high-level decision makers in each ministry, the president of the Representative Chamber, the president of the Senate, and diaspora from the Anosy Region living in Antananarivo.

The objective of the advocacy and promotion campaign is to effect a government decision to allocate more resources from the Public Investment Program (PIP) to the Anosy Region in order to advance the goals and initiatives outlined in the RDP.

#### Anosy Region Environmental Instrument Panel (TBER—Tableau de bord)

The Anosy TBER is now completed, and the Head of the Region has approved the document. Dissemination among regional and national stakeholders is ongoing.

LARO's GIS team provided support on data collection and production to be integrated into this TBER for the Anosy Region. LARO intervention was also decisive for the mobilization of local stakeholders in the realization of this project.

## **Result 2. The Regional Development Framework integrates Local Development Initiatives and Plans**

- *An Urban Plan for Fort Dauphin is developed and integrated into the Regional Development Framework.*

### Fort Dauphin Urban Development Plan

The Fort Dauphin Urban Development Plan has been fully completed, and the final document is now under evaluation by the Government. An eventual update should be performed following the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Integrated Growth Pole Project, executed by Tech-sult and funded by World Bank.

The Integrated Growth Pole Project (IG2P) and AGETIPA have finalized the Urban Director Development Plan of Fort Dauphin. For the finalization of this Plan, IG2P capitalized on the findings of a study carried out by a consultant funded through the GDA.

Presentation to the local stakeholders of the final and validated plan was organized in Fort Dauphin in the end of May by IG2P and AGETIPA.

### Communal Development Plan Guidelines

The Communal Development Plan Guidelines were finalized and approved during the quarter, and will now serve to guide the updating of all Communal Development Plans. This update aims to improve the content in order to better reflect the priorities outlined in the Regional Development Framework and the Regional Development Plan.

## **Result 3. Conservation & Development Activities Contribute to the Protection of Malagasy Biodiversity within the Context of Local and Regional Development Frameworks.**

- *Community-based reforestation initiatives facilitated and supported.*
- *A Priority Biodiversity Conservation Zone and Supporting Community-based.*
- *Income-Generating Interventions are initiated in the Anosy Region.*
- *Community-based sustainable management of aquatic natural resources is initiated.*

### Tree nursery and reforestation :

The reforestation campaign was entirely completed, with 100 hectares planted. All 120,000 seedlings from the tree nursery of Mangarivotra--which is the fruit of collaboration between USAID, QMM and the CIREEF of Fort Dauphin—were planted throughout five communes (Mahatalaky, Ifarantsa, Soanierana, Mandiso and Isaka Ivondro).

The reforestation was officially launched with the presence of the Regional Authority and the USAID/NRO team.

### Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Site

The diagnostic study on the site was completed by WCS, with support from LARO. The final report is now available. The WCS study discovered four new communes affected by the conservation site (Analapatsy, Manambaro, Ranopiso and Ankaramena), versus the one commune identified by QMM in their preliminary assessment.

This generated substantial discussion and some confusion among the institutions involved in this activity (QMM, Pact Madagascar, WCS, FAFAFI and CIREEF). To clarify the situation

and reach a consensus on the location of the conservation site, several series of meetings were organized between Pact, QMM, WCS, CIREEF, and FAFAFI.

First, a workgroup composed of technicians from each institution was organized to identify and discuss all the possibilities from the cartographic data. This technical core team defined two scenarios for the demarcation of the site. The first scenario was that the site would cover 605 hectares of forest land located in only one commune (Sarisambo). The second scenario differed from the first by integrating forest land located in the Ranopiso commune, which would expand the site to approximately 782 hectares.

Then, scenarios developed by the technical core team were submitted to a coordination working group which included all decision-makers, which decided to adopt the second scenario.

WCS, under a mandate from LARO, is now working on public consultation and preparing the administrative and legal process for establishing the conservation site. LARO, in partnership with WCS, is nearing completion of the management plan for the site.

The LARO team is also continuing its awareness campaign and income-generating activities.

#### Artesian aquaculture

The aquaculture training center for the local fishermen in Ambinanikely was officially inaugurated. The aquaculture site in Ambinanibe—the result of collaboration between USAID and QMM in the Global Development Alliance—will serve as a field application site for students at the training center.

Mobilization and education of fishermen and villagers surrounding the Ambinanibe lagoon continues.

## **IV. Comparison of Planned and Actual Activities**

Most activities planned for the quarter were completed according to schedule. The following delays have been experienced:

- The election of new board members and the finalization of the institutional status of the Regional Development Committee were postponed to the end of July (initially planned for the end of May.)
- Completion and promotion of the Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Site management plan was delayed due to confusion concerning the demarcation of the site.
- Construction of the reproduction and cultivation basins has not yet been completed, although all materials and equipment have now been procured and work is well underway.

## **V. Activities Planned for Next Quarter**

### **Regional development activities**

- Presentation and promotion of the Regional Investment Strategy to donors
- Meeting of the General Assembly of the Regional Development Committee for the institutionalization of the Regional Development Committee
- Strengthening of the Regional Development Committee and election of new board members

### **Urban planning and communal development Plan**

- Updating of communal development plans according to the new guidelines
- Public consultation and awareness raising

### **Conservation activities**

- Continue organizing local communities and developing a financial sustainability mechanism.
- Continue promotion of additional income-generating activities : apiculture, pisciculture, and fisheries (with FAFAFI)
- Training for fishermen in new fishing techniques at the new Ambinanikely training center
- Development and implementation of sustainable community-based shrimp aquaculture techniques through the Ambinanikely training center
- Development of community capacity to master and implement aquaculture techniques
- Developing and strengthening the Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Site management structure
- Approval of the Conservation Site management plan
- Promotion of the Conservation Site management plan at community level
- Continue and expand public awareness and social mobilization campaign at the level of the four new communes identified as affected by the Conservation Site

### **Aquaculture**

- Finalize the construction of the reproduction and cultivation basins
- Introduction of shrimp (larvae) for cultivation

## **VI. Success Stories/Lessons Learned**

Of the 22 regions in Madagascar, the Anosy Region is the first to have its Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and Regional Investment Plan (RIP) completed and approved. These documents will now serve as tools for an advocacy campaign for the Anosy Region targeting the central government, investors and donors.